

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-03

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 AF-04

ARA-10 EA-07 EUR-10 NEA-06 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

L-02 NSC-07 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-14 USIE-00 INRE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 OIC-01 /087 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNESCO:RDFORSTER:JU

APPROVED BY IO:RDMOREY

USOAS/ARA:GMONSMA

IO/UNESCO:FJGALANTO

ARA/MEX:ESCHIPPY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 222750

NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE (ITEM 39):

US AND CANADIAN BID TO JOIN UNESCO EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP

REFS: A) MEXICO 08247; B) PARIS 23035; C) STATE 220683;

D) STATE 056794 (3/22/73); E) STATE 80760; F) MEXICO 2901

(4/28/73)

1. EMBASSY MEXICO REQUESTED MAKE DEMARCHE TO GOM SUGGESTED

REFTEL B. REF. C, WHICH IS BEING REPEATED TO EMBASSY

MEXICO, CONTAINS BACKGROUND INFO. THAT SHOULD BE HELPFUL IN

PREPARING APPROACH TO GOM FOREIGN SECRETARIAT. REFS. C

THROUGH F, IF AVAILABLE, SHOULD BE CONSULTED FOR MORE

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DETAILED BACKGROUND DATA.

2. EMBASSY WILL NOTE THAT FIRST EFFORT BY U. S. TO JOIN ONE OF UNESCO'S REGIONAL GROUPS, MADE IN 1966, WAS DIRECTED AT LATIN AMERICA/CARIBBEAN GROUP AND FAILED BECAUSE OF STRONG OPPOSITION FROM NUMBER OF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. WHEN ISSUE OF REGIONAL GROUP MEMBERSHIP AGAIN AROSE LAST YEAR, WE FELT IT PRUDENT TO REVIEW OUR POSITION BY TAKING EXTENSIVE SOUNDINGS AMONG MEMBERS OF LATIN AMERICAN GROUP. RESULTS SUGGESTED THAT ANY EFFORT ON OUR PART TO JOIN LATIN AMERICAN GROUP WOULD RECEIVE LITTLE SUPPORT AND THIS CONCLUSION WAS CONFIRMED BY US DELEGATION TO UNESCO 92ND EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, APRIL 1973, WHICH REPORTED

(PARIS 81028) THAT LA BOARD MEMBERS HAD AGREED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE "OPPORTUNE" FOR US TO SEEK ENDORSEMENT FOR ENTRY INTO LATIN AMERICAN GROUP. REF. E ASKED US DEL TO INFORM LATIN AMERICAN DELS THAT IN DEFERENCE TO THEIR WISHES WE HAD DECIDED NOT TO PURSUE MATTER OF MEMBERSHIP IN LATIN AMERICAN GROUP AND TO CONCENTRATE OUR EFFORTS ON JOINING EUROPEAN GROUP. WE HOPED THAT LATIN AMERICAN BOARD MEMBERS WOULD ASSIST U. S. TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL.

3. 92ND EXECUTIVE BOARD RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CANADIAN AND U. S. BID TO JOIN EUROPEAN GROUP WAS OVERWHELMINGLY APPROVED BY VOTE OF 21 TO 1 (FRANCE) WITH FIFTEEN ABSTENTIONS, INCLUDING MEXICO.

4. AS NOTED REF. C, THERE IS WIDELY HELD VIEW IN UNESCO, FREQUENTLY STATED BY DG HIMSELF, THAT ALL MEMBERS SHOULD BE FULL PARTICIPANTS IN AT LEAST ONE REGIONAL GROUP. EUROPEAN GROUP, WHICH IS ONLY ONE WE ARE NOW SEEKING TO JOIN, WOULD APPEAR TO BE MOST APPROPRIATE FOR US MEMBERSHIP IN VIEW OF TRADITIONAL TIES, COMMONALITY OF PROBLEMS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE, AND IN KEEPING WITH SPIRIT OF DETENTE AND IMPROVED COOPERATION AMONG COUNTRIES OF EUROPEAN AND NORTH AMERICA.

5. IN VIEW ABOVE, DEPT. WAS DISTRESSED TO LEARN (REF.B) THAT MEXICAN UNESCO PERM REP HAS INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTE AGAINST US-CANADIAN ADMISSION TO EUROPEAN GROUP, AND WE
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STRONGLY HOPE THAT GOM WILL AGREE TO CHANGE MEXICAN PERM REP'S INSTRUCTIONS TO ENABLE HIM TO SUPPORT OUR ENTRY INTO EUROPEAN GROUP. IF, HOWEVER, IT APPEARS THAT GOM NOT

PREPARED TO DO THIS, EMBASSY SHOULD SEEK ASSURANCE THAT THEY WOULD AT LEAST NOT VOTE AGAINST US ON THIS ISSUE AND

WOULD INSTEAD ABSTAIN, IN CONFORMITY WITH ESTABLISHED

CUSTOM IN UNESCO OF DEFERRING ON REGIONAL MATTERS TO MAJORITY DECISION OF REGIONAL GROUP CONCERNED (IN THIS CASE, PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN GROUP).

6. ASSUMING THAT MEXICO SHARES GENERAL UNESCO VIEW EMBODIED IN 92ND EXECUTIVE BOARD RESOLUTION THAT "IT IS THE RIGHT AND DUTY OF EVERY MEMBER STATE TO PARTICIPATE FULLY AND ON A REGULAR BASIS BOTH IN THE INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL MEETINGS OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL CHARACTER", WE ARE AT A LOSS AS TO WHICH GROUP, IF NOT EUROPEAN, GOM WOULD THINK IT MORE APPROPRIATE FOR US TO JOIN, ESPECIALLY SINCE GOM HAS IN PAST MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY WOULD NOT RPT NOT WELCOME U. S. INTO LATIN AMERICAN GROUP. EMBASSY

MIGHT WISH TO RAISE THIS QUESTION DISCRETELY IF FOREIGN SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS ARE ADAMANT IN OPPOSING U. S. ENTRY INTO EUROPEAN GROUP. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE222750
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RDFORSTER:JU
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740287-0270
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741059/aaaabyfp.tel
Line Count: 132
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) MEXICO 08247; B) PARIS 23035; C), STATE 220683;
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <19-Aug-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNESCO 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE (ITEM 39): US AND CANADIAN BID TO JOIN UNESCO EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP
TAGS: AORG, UNESCO
To: MEXICO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005